

Commander's Call Topics



March 25, 2011

"We must commit to eliminating sexual assault from our Air Force. Air Force leaders have focused on sexual assault prevention and response for several years, with special emphasis on victim care. Unfortunately, sexual assault continues to burden our Airmen and degrade our mission effectiveness. Sexual assault is a crime, and there is no place for this behavior in our Air Force. We demand better of ourselves."

– Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy from their [Letter to Airmen](#) on sexual assault prevention, response

FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

[Air Force officials present budget to Senate](#)

"Proceeding with development and production of the KC-46 tanker aircraft; implementing the joint strike fighter restructuring; meeting the combatant commanders' need for more intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; investing in the long-range strike family of systems, including a new penetrating bomber; and enhancing space control and situational awareness all remain critical capabilities for both today's and tomorrow's Air Force," said Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley during discussions about the Air Force fiscal-2012 budget request.

[Air Force officials take space budget, acquisition strategy to Capitol Hill](#)

Air Force senior leaders testified about the fiscal-2012 budget and space capabilities investments before the House Armed Services Strategic Forces Subcommittee. *"The Air Force is investing in critical military space capabilities which directly support our warfighters and benefit our nation's economy, national security, international relationships, scientific discovery and our quality of life,"* said Under Secretary of the Air Force Erin Conaton.

CURRENT ISSUES

[Japan-based military families remain top concern](#)

Defense Department officials are taking "proactive, deliberate" steps to stay ahead of the changing conditions in Japan, while keeping in mind the safety and well being of military families there. Service members and their families can stay informed through a variety of sources including [Military One Source](#); [Department of Defense Education Activity](#); Military community and family policy's [Facebook](#) page; and [Defense.gov's](#) report on Japan.

[Air Force aerial layer networking concept to enhance warfighter connectivity](#)

By 2024, the Air Force's fleet of aircraft, space and surface systems will contribute to and use various aerial layer networking functions to support joint capability areas. Specific to the Air Force, aerial layer networking, or the integration and application of processes, procedures, and policies that provide the framework for data exchange, can be an effective force multiplier whether in-garrison or downrange. The flight plan is currently in the final stages of Air Force review and is projected to be released in spring 2011.

PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Air Force officials launch accountability system for personnel in Japan](#)

Officials are asking commanders and their commander representatives, or CORs, to report individual and family member status of those assigned or transiting to the affected area by logging into [Air Force Personnel Accountability and Assessment System](#). This requirement applies to active-duty Airmen, selected Reserve members, Department of the Air Force and non-appropriated-fund civilian employees, Air Force contractors, and family members affected by the events in Japan.

[Officials extend deadline for 'Stop Loss' pay](#)

The deadline for eligible service members, veterans and their beneficiaries to apply for special retroactive pay as compensation for involuntary extensions of their military service contracts has been extended to April 8. To apply for Stop Loss pay or for more information, including submission requirements and service-specific links, go to <http://www.defense.gov/stoploss>.

Air Force community assessment ends soon

Officials are extending the opportunity to participate in the 2011 Air Force Community Assessment through April 3, and are encouraging members who were selected to take the anonymous survey to complete it prior to the end date. The survey covers topics including personal and family adjustment, individual and family adaptation, community well-being, deployment, resiliency, post-traumatic stress and help-seeking stigma. For more information on the survey, call 800-506-0098 or e-mail afcasurvey@icfi.com.

New Security+ certification course offered at Keesler AFB

A new course has been established at Keesler AFB, Miss., to provide [Security+ certification](#) to cyberspace support Airmen prior to air expeditionary force deployments. This seven-day course provides the knowledge and skills needed to perform the duties of an information assurance technician when managing and operating the Air Force network. Course attendance is open to officers, enlisted and civilian personnel; those requiring training for an AEF deployment or as part of a 6K communications and electronics unit task code have priority.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

New crisis centers assist with relocations

[Department of Defense Education Activity](#) officials have established crisis centers to assist parents of its students and employees who are affected by the voluntary relocations from Japan and Bahrain. The centers -- one each in Virginia, Japan and Germany -- are accessible by phone or email 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

TRICARE follows beneficiaries departing Japan

TRICARE Management Activity officials assure TRICARE beneficiaries affected by the situation in Japan that their health care benefits will be maintained and support will continue during this difficult time. Beneficiaries should check www.tricare.mil/tsunami for ongoing updates.

Officials announce teen summer camps for 2011

The annual camps are designed to help Air Force youth build leadership skills and/or aspire to careers in space or aviation. Teen Aviation Camp will be held June 4 through 9 at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.; Leadership Camp will be held July 11 through 15 at the University of Texas at San Antonio; and the Space Camp will be held July 24 through 29 at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala. For more information about each camp, or on Air Force youth programs, visit www.afyouthprograms.com.

FINANCES AND EDUCATION

The value of \$1

When service members purchase [Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance](#), in any amount, \$1 of the premium ensures their eligibility for \$100,000 in traumatic injury protection, which provides for payment to service members who are severely injured, on or off duty, and suffer a loss as the result of a traumatic event. This coverage applies to active duty members, reservists and National Guard members. Coverage became automatic Dec. 1, 2005, ensuring every member with SGLI also has TSGLI.

Tax laws benefit service members, families

Due to a holiday, the filing deadline is April 18. Deployed service members and their spouses also have at least a 180-day extension to file or pay taxes from the date they leave the combat zone (to invoke this extension, write "combat zone" across the top of the return). Service members on duty outside the U.S. also are entitled to an automatic two-month extension, pushing the deadline to June 18. Whether filing in person or online, take advantage of the free advice offered at military tax centers. For more on military-related tax laws, visit the [Military OneSource website](#) or the [IRS website](#), which features a section for service members and their families.

RESOURCES

AF.mil

<http://www.af.mil>

Airman magazine

<http://www.airmanonline.af.mil/>

Air Force Community

<http://www.afcommunity.af.mil/>

Air Force Outreach

<http://www.afoutreach.af.mil/>

Military OneSource

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/>

Military HOMEFRONT

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>

Air Force Personnel Center

<https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil/app/home>

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

Air Reserve Personnel Center

<http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/>

Department of Defense

<http://www.defense.gov>

Department of Defense News

<http://www.defenselink.mil>

TRICARE

<http://www.tricare.mil>

U.S. Government Web site

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

Employment Opportunities

www.usajobs.com

www.nafjobs.org

AIR FORCE HERITAGE TO HORIZONS

This Week in Air Force History

March 25, 1956 – The last XB-51 crashed in El Paso, Texas, going to Eglin AFB, Fla., for use in the movie "Toward the Unknown."

March 25, 1975 – The U.S. Air Force organized an airlift to evacuate 10,000 people a day from Da Nang, South Vietnam. Communist forces had surrounded and cutoff the city.

March 25, 1986 – For the first time, an all-woman crew, assigned to the 351st Strategic Missile Wing, Whiteman AFB, Mo., stands Minuteman missile alert under the gender-specific crew policy.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit <http://www.airforcehistory.af.mil>.

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